

Def. Doc. #1124

PREMIER KONOE'S ADMINISTRATIVE ADDRESS AT THE  
SEVENTY-FIRST (EXTRA-ORDINARY) SESSION  
OF THE DIET, JULY 27, 1937.

At this 71st session of the Imperial Diet, I have the honour of stating the views of the Government.

At a time when our nation is confronted by serious problems and difficulties, I have been most unexpectedly appointed Premier, and I am keenly aware of the heavy burden I have taken on my shoulders.

I desire to elucidate, first of all, the principle which underlies the endeavours of the Government to fulfill its immense responsibilities. This principle is to make all our policies stem from a single source, namely, the spirit of the solemn and superb polity of our Empire. Expression of this spirit means that externally we should, in concert with other Powers, strive to establish true peace firmly in the world in accordance with international justice and to enhance more and more the prestige of our nation abroad and that internally we should define clearly the relationship between Sovereign and subjects and enable each of the people to find his proper place in accordance with social justice, bringing about thereby a steady and healthy advance of the national fortunes. Such, then, is the principle the Government expects to observe in formulating and carrying out its policies along various lines.

It is a source of profound regret that, with the troublesome question with the Soviet Union brought to a peaceful settlement and relations with other Powers increasingly amicable, there has occurred the present incident in China and that the Government has been compelled to make an important decision. I am very grateful, however, that the Government has been accorded the united support of the nation at this critical moment.

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In sending troops to North China, of course, the Government has no other purpose, as was explained in its recent statement, than to preserve the peace of East Asia. I cannot but hope most fervently that reconsideration and self-discipline on the part of the Government and people of China will make as speedily as possible a fundamental adjustment of Sino-Japanese relations.

In view of the current circumstances at home and abroad, it is of the most urgent necessity for us to perfect our national defence and develop the economic power of our country. Accordingly, as the basic means of carrying out our national policy, the Government feels imperative : need to devise a comprehensive scheme aiming principally at expansion of the nation's productive power, establishment of equilibrium in international accounts and adjustment of the supply and demand of commodities. Investigations are in progress with a view to formulating a concrete programme based on the conception of Japan and Manchoukuo as a single unit.

Various other plans, including reform of the administrative machinery and the parliamentary system, have been reserved for later consideration. There are a few, of course, that have already been worked out definitely or are under investigation. The Government has definitely decided, for instance, to establish the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and the appropriation needed for it is being submitted to the Diet for your approval.

As regards education, I am convinced of the great importance of laying down new foundations of our educational system that will be in accord with the principle of our national polity. But it is extremely difficult

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to accomplish in a brief period reform of our educational system. The Government intends to appoint an educational council and to continue careful deliberations on the question.

Japan is at present passing through one of those trials that will enable it to rise to greater heights of prosperity and power. To achieve such spectacular progress, or to execute the various attendant reform measures, I believe there is no other way than to have all our people act as one with a firm resolve and the utmost perseverance. Internal friction or rivalry not only will frustrate that purpose but is likely to bring national humiliation upon us. At the time of forming the Cabinet, I thus followed a policy calculated to promote as much as possible the unity and cooperation of the nation.

In consonance with the spirit of national unity, the Government is prepared to carry out reforms where reforms are needed and to go the way that is "new and ever new." It is its intention, moreover, to take up and solve, one by one, those questions that hitherto have been considered difficult of solution.

These are what the Government proposes to do. But at this session of the Diet, which follows so closely the formation of the Cabinet, the bills to be submitted for your approval have been confined to some of those on which deliberations were not completed in the past session and to those on which immediate action is required.

I hope that I have made clear to you the outline of the Government's views. Your collaboration is essential in the task of surmounting the present difficulties and promoting the growth of national strength. I appeal to you for generous support and cooperation.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, H. YASHI, Koorn, Chief of the Archives Section Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 4 pages and entitled "Premier KONO'S Administrative Address at the 71st. Session of the Diet, July 27, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 8th day of April 1947.

/s/ K. Hayashi  
Signature of Official.

Witness : /s/ K. Urabe

Ref.

一、七月十一日閣議會ニ於ケル近衛内閣總理大臣演説

「七月二十七日」

いし下二同閣議會ノ開會ニ當リマシテ、政府ノ所信ヲ述ベマスコトハ私ノ光榮トスル所デアリマス。海ニ多事多難ノ時局ニ臨シマシテ、萬ラスオ大命ヲ拜シ、重キ責任ヲ荷ビマス。ソテ政府ニ對シ、又次ニテアリマス。

政府ガ此ノ重責ヲ負スニ當リマシテ、深ニ憂ムトスル懸念ヲ抱キマシテ置キ、タイト思ヒマス。ソレハ吾等ノ政權ヲシテ、我が國ガ尊嚴ナル地位ノ保持ニ關シ、サシムルコトアリマス。此ノ情勢ノ發展ハ之ヲ外ニシテハ、吾等正義ニ對シキ列國ト爲ニ、世界平和ノ確立ニ力ヲ盡シ、寧々盟國ヲ宣揚スルコトデアリマス。之ヲ内ニシマシテハ、大義名分ヲ明カニシ、社會正義ニ對シテ國民ヲシテ各々其ノ責ヲ負ハシメ、依テ以テ國體ノ堅實ナル發展ヲ期ルコトデアリマス。此ノ方針ノ下ニ、諸般ノ政策ノ樹立、進行ヲ期シ、タイト思フノデアリマス。

是ニ一、國際情勢ヲ自シマシタ對「ソ」一、關係ヲ無事ニ經營シマシテ、列國トノ關係ハ最近電々親善ノ度ヲ加ヘテ、好リマシガ爲リ、今日之如ニ於ケル所

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變ノ勃發ハ誠ニ遺憾ニ堪ヘヌ所デアリマス。政府ハ已ムヲ得ス重大ナル決  
意ヲ以シタノデアリマスガ、幸ニ各方面ヨリ舉國一致ノ御支援ヲ得マシタ  
コトハ誠ニ感謝ニ堪ヘマセス。勿論今同派兵ノ目的ガ東亞ノ平和維持ニ存  
スルコトハ過日中外ニ聲明シマシタ通りデアリマス。支那政府竝ニ國民ノ  
自省自律ニ依リマシテ日支兩國間ニ於ケル國交ガ速ニ且根本的ニ調整セ  
ラレムコトヲ衷心ヨリ希望シテ已マス次ハデアリマス  
現下内外ノ情勢ニ鑑ミ國防ノ充實經濟力ノ發展ヲ圖ルコトハ最モ急務トス  
ル所デアリマス。是ニ於テ之ガ國東遷行ノ基礎的手段・シテ生産力ノ擴充  
國際收支ノ適合及物資需給ノ調整ヲ主眼トスル所ノ綜合的計畫ヲ樹立スル  
ノ必要ナルコトヲ痛感スル次第デアリマス。而モ此ノ計畫ハ日清兩國ヲ一  
體トスル見地ニ立ツテ具體案ヲ作成スルヤウニ目下考究中デアリマス  
其ノ他行政機構並ニ議會制度ノ改革ヲ始メト致シマシテ各般ノ政策ニ關シ  
マシテハ今後ノ檢討ニ俟ツ所抄クナイノデアリマスガ中ニハ既ニ成案ヲ得  
タルモノモアリマス。或ハ調査研究ヲ開始シタルモノモアリマス。例ヘハ  
保健社會省ノ設置ニ付キマシテハ既ニ設置ノ方針ヲ確立致シマシタノデ

ニ必要ナル豫算ハ議會ノ協賛ヲ御願ヒスルニ至クテ始ル次第アリマス  
教育ニ付キマシテハ國體ノ本義ニ則ツテ教學ノ根本ヲ確立スルコトハ現下  
ノ情勢ニ鑑ミ極メテ緊要ナルコトト存ジマス  
而シテ學制ノ改革ノ如キハ短時日ノ間ニ之ヲ決行スルコトハ至難デアリマ  
スガ故ニ茲ニ教育籌議會ヲ設ケマシテ慎重審議ヲ爲ネタイト存ジテ始ル次  
第デアリマス

近時我國ハ愈々興隆シ益々發展スルノ實ヲ舉グベキ試練ノ一過程ニアルノ  
デアリマス・從フテ國力ノ飛躍的發展・之ニ伴フ所ノ革新的諸政策ノ遂行  
ハ國民諸君が大イニ發憤シ大イニ忍耐シ各々全能力ヲ傾ケテ互ニ協力事ニ  
當ルニ非スンハ其ノ功ヲ収ムルコトハ出来ナイト言スルノデアリマス・國  
内ニ於テマシテ對立競争ノ厚穢ガアリマシテハ・到底所期ノ目的ヲ達シ難  
キハ勿論・延イテハ何作リヲ招クノ虞ガアラウト思ハレマス・ソレ故ニ私  
ハ組織ニ當リマシテ出來得ル限り國民協力ノ實ヲ爲ゲタイト云フ方針ヲ執  
ツタノデアリマス  
政長ハ斯クノ如キ協力一氣ノ精神ニ盡キマシテ改革スベキモノハ進ンテ之

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ヲ改革シ日ニ新ニ日ニ又新ナルコトヲ期シタイト存スルノデアリマス  
而シテ從來解決困難トセラレマシタ諸問題ノ如キモ順次之ヲ取リ上げマシ  
テ解決ヲシテ行クト云フ行キ方ヲ致シタイト思フノデアリマス  
斯クノ如キ考ヘラ持ツテ占リマスケレドモ、今期議會ハ組閣勿々ノコトデ  
モアリマスルガ故ニ、御協賛ヲ願フ案件ハ前議會ニ於キマシテ審議未了ニ  
終ツタモノノ一部分ト緊急ヲ要スルモノトニ止メマシタ次第デアリマス  
茲ニ大略政府ノ意ノ存スル所ヲ明カニ致シマシタガ、時難ヲ克服シテ國力  
ノ發展ヲ圖ルノニハ一ニ諸君ノ御協力ヲ御願ビシナケレバナラヌノデアリマ  
スエラ、御卒右御諒察ノ上御支援ヲ與ヘラレムコトヲ切望スル次第デアリ  
マス



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文書ノ出所竝ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

自分 林

聲ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處茲ニ添付セラレタ

ル日本語ニ就テ書カレ三頁ヨリ成ル 第七十一回帝國議會ニ於ケル近衛内閣總理ト

題スル聲明ハ日本政府ハ外 務 省 一ノ保管ニ係ル公文書ノ正確ニシテ

眞實ナル爲メナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日 於東京

林

聲

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ所ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人 浦 部 勝 馬